[272] 276

[Picture. Farob, a tea fern. 5/4 natural size.]

Tobacco is indispensible to Hottentots of both sexes. It is the first thing they reach for after waking up in the morning. They have it in the form of large rolls or in firmly packed flat American packets. Because the smoker first cuts (χao) it, then stuffs (//hā/) it in his pipe, they call it *χao//hā/b, unless they prefer the foreign word ta·bagab. Wild hemp, da· ab, which the Bechuans are so fond of smoking, is not unknown in Namaland but is more rarely used. The Hottentots are economical smokers. They inhale the smoke deeply, and keep it in as long as they can and let it slowly trail out of their mouth and nose. Particularly economical smokers wipe the tobacco tar into a little leather wallet, ≠nuni·//ga·/rus. If their supply of toabcco is used up, they cut up the leather that is drenched in nicotine and smoke the pieces mixed with chopped straw. [415]

Alcohol was always known to the Hottentots. When they live way out on the veld and cannot get this stimulant except as their ancestors did, [205] they still brew their honey beer, !kχa·/rib. 273

The wild African honey bees (called !habu·b) in Namaland usually build their honeycombs in caves, more rarely in hollow trees. The Hottentot knows exactly the individual parts of the bees' house. He differentiates exactly the pollen (≠na/o·b) stored up in the comb from the virgin honey (hū·/danib). His generic term for honey is dani·b. The waxy bee cells which are joined together into a comb and which float to the surface after being emptied when one makes sugar beer, are called */ha·/mi. The honeycomb in which the brood lies is differentiated by the word /ā/b, and *tsēb or tsērab is the word for the material which the bee uses to roof over the honeycomb. [136] 222 [273] [825]

The cave, near which the bees are seen, is first poked with a long stick as thick as one's finger. If honey sticks to the tip of the stick, a firebrand is placed in the entrance to the cave to drive the bees as far away as possible. Then a man creeps into the cave and breaks off the honeycomb with a wooden forked hoe.

If the cave is too small for a man to creep inside and if the only entrance is a slit the width of a hand, then they use a special honey stick, *!a·rub or !a·nib. They cut a long stick about the thickness of the little finger from the branches of the taai bush or even better from the roots of the thorn tree and attach to the front end with strips of leather two lighter little pieces of wood //gaĩnkχa, the length of a finger, that have a sharp point and are faced towards the back. This 222 413

makes a forked hook, which takes hold of the honeycomb when the stick is withdrawn from the bee hole. Finally, the Hottentot makes a honey bag, *//kxo·rob, from the hide of an iguona, in which he collects honey. [Picture. Honey stick, 1/5 natural size.]

## 4. Salt

Salt exists in Namaland in the coastal desert in sufficient amounts for household use. (Cf. Plate IX, below.) The women collect the salty earth in pails, fill them up with water, leave the liquid till it is clear and then pour it off into a flat dish and leave it in the sun to evaporate.

[206]

## 5. Eating Meals

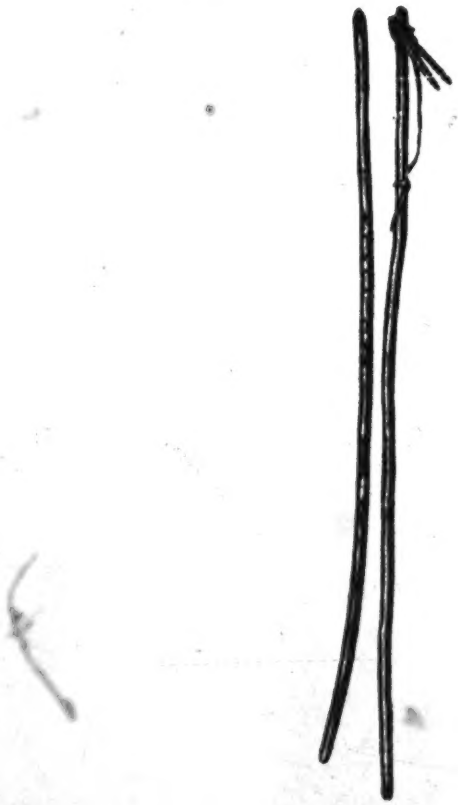
Eating meals is not associated with any special time. Only breakfast, as the first meal of the day, has a name, so·bos. When at the hut the time and place of a meal is determined by the arrival of the cattle, when traveling by the division of the marches into treks, and on the hunt by a lucky shot.

The branches of Mesembrianthemum Marlothii Pax (cf. page 85) are often used in the field for dishes and plates, but other bushes are also used. In permanent households the wooden !ore·s serve as eating dishes. A large wooden spoon, //go/a·b is used to serve the food from it to those sitting around. [Picture, Wooden Spoons, 1/5 natural size.] There are no specific eating habits. Only two occasional customs, which are observed here and there when people are in a good mood, came to my attention. If the hunt for bulbs has been successful, then everyone sitting in a circle around the full pot enjoys a childish pleasure called *a·m//ga·ro. It is not an improvised jest but a custom well known to the people. One after another, each may help himself as long as he succeeds in catching the bulbs which he must throw into the air in his mouth. Even old people participate in this game.

Tsu·bugu/hu·ru is a game which the children play. They cut up a piece of meat given to them in common into small pieces, place the pieces one after another on a stone, and as soon as the hand of the person who places the meat there is withdrawn, the others quickly try to seize it. The piece belongs to the quickest.

222
413

[205]



Honey stick, 1/5 natural size.

did 50 years ago. I learned from such people. 281

1. Tanning, /no·ro, in the broadest sense (usually women's work). [462]

a) The process itself involves the following techniques: The freshly removed skin is first spread out to dry with the hairy side up, usually on the hut so that it will be safe from dogs.

When the skin is dry and hard, it is softened up with the juice of succulent plants which are pounded (*/a·mai) into the fleshy side of the skin. [824]

The excess liquid is poured off and the skin rolled up so that it will not get dry too soon. The woman then kneels on the roll, after she has spread out flat just as much as she can work at a time. The fleshy side of the skin is sprinkled with sandstone powder and briskly rubbed (/nũi) with a piece of tanning stone (*/kxoms) the size of one's fist. [413]

When the sandstone has rubbed off all the scraps of meat, they let the skin get half dry again, full it (/no·ro in the narrower sense) and knead it then as they would laundry and then rub soft fat into the outer side.

The skin is now certainly dry and pliable but if it were soaked through by the rain, it would again become hard and brittle when dry. To prevent that, the skin is tanned with the crushed and softened red bast of the Acacia horrida Willd. (*basi, probably borrowed). Then the skin is placed for an hour in red bast lye, with the bark bundles wrapped in it, until it is saturated. It is half dried again, [234], and then spread out for about another half hour in a flat trench and covered (//ha/n) with slightly dampened sand. In conclusion a man takes the skin by the tail, another by the head, women and children grasp the sides and they pull and stretch it smooth. [824] [386]

Finally dried in the sun, the skin is permanently soft, rainproof and dyed a pretty reddish-brown on the inside.

b) Useful objects made from tanned skins are: α.) Floor skins, ≠go'a·n. They are the carpets of the huts. Young cattle, goats, sheep, springbok and duikerbok furnish the material. A single skin of this kind is called ≠go'a·s. ≠go'a·b is the large rug which consists of about six floor skins that are cut and sewn together with strips of sinews. 281 352

β) Skin covers, "Kompersen," ≠na·mti, made from sheep, jackal, Octoyon megalotis Desmar), rock-rabbit or lynx skin, used as a fur cloak or kaross, a comfortable, solid and warm article of clothing for women (see Plate X.). Today it has been almost entirely replaced by European clothing. 281 291 [177]

γ) The front apron * (!ga/e·b, 3. st.) of the boys is a skin flap, which is cut from any soft skin. Goat, rock-rabbit and jackal skins are used most frequently. (See Plate XI.) The skin is fastened to a strong belt, *//k‿o·rogos, which goes half way around the body and often has a zigzag ornament. The name of this ornament, */hõ/am//hoēs, expresses the fact that a similar black and white pattern is burned into the lip of the wooden milk pail. 28| 29| [531]

δ) The back apron (!gũ/s) of the girls (also specially called /gaũ·/bes as a female article of clothing) is always made of sheepskin, preferably from a brown and white or a black and white checked one. The hairs are taken out with a chisel-like instrument except for a narrow edge and wide corners. The bright edge of the fur contrasts well with the reddish-brown leather. The back apron covers the seat and legs to the knees. The bat is called se·rtsi!gũ·/bes after this piece of clothing because the flying skin of the hanging animal looks like the back apron on a woman. [413] ●

ε) All the fur caps, /gabati, which I saw were made from the back skin of the aardwolf. The back comb of the animal forms a comb of long bristles the length of the cap. (See Namib- Bushmen, p. 99) [Plate X. A Hottentot Woman from Keetmanshoop in an Apron. A Topnaar Hottentot Woman with a Child in Aba Skin. A Hottentot Woman from Keetmanshoop in a kaross.]

[235] ζ) The so-called "rogue's sack," /hõ a//hõ s, should be mentioned. It bears this name because it is used for keeping little objects stolen or withheld from someone. The one pictured here is made from the skin of the "dwarf" (Cynictis). 28| 415

η) A net bag is knotted from strips of chamois skin. 28| 286

## 2. Letting the Skin Rot, /õ/õ

The fresh skin is crumpled up firmly and, wrapped in a tanned skin, set out in the sun. During the night it is placed by the fire to hasten decomposition. They also bury oxskins knee deep in the floor of the hut next to the hearth. After 3 to 4 days the skin stinks and the hairs can be easily pulled out. The skin is rolled up after depilation and a man places both his feet on it and works on it from above and below and sideways with his feet until it is soft and nearly dry. Then the fleshy side is rubbed with fat. [Pictures. Cap made from the back skin of the aardwolf. 1/6 natural size. /hõ/a//hõ/s. 1/5 natural size.] 28|

14:Hahn L-5 (ca. 1870-1880) 1881 FX13 Hottentot FX13



000 (pot sū-s, to boil, to cook sāi). Food, especially meat, is
252 always well boiled, and not underdone, as our gourmands prefer it.

325 We must also conclude that the process of melting
196 ore was known to the Khoikhoi before their general
174 separation; for ǀurīb is the word for *iron* or any other metal used by all clans and tribes, and is derived from ǀū, to separate (intransitive and transitive), German *ausscheiden*. They also manufactured knives, spears (gōagu), and metal rings both of copper and iron, as ornaments for arms and legs. (Rings ǂganugu, literally meaning the ties, from ǂgai to bind.) From the invention of iron tools, such as knives and axes and spears, it was only a short step to the fabrication (ǁhoe-χoa-ǂna) of wooden vessels in which they could keep their milk and fat.

174 But iron and copper tools were, on account of the difficulty of manufacturing them, as yet too valuable; consequently the stone implements of the more primitive age were not entirely abandoned. That a Stone Age must have existed among the Hottentots is proved by the fact that
● 413 the priest (ǂgai-aob) up to this day never uses an iron knife, but always a splint of a sharp quartz, when he has to perform the rite of making a boy a man, or if he has to make an operation, or if a sheep or cow is slaughtered as an offering to the deceased or to the Supreme Being.

492 Oxen were broken in for the purpose of carrying and riding (ǂgabi), and men and women both were experts in the art of riding, much unlike the Kafir, who will ride while his wife and children have to trot alongside of him. Van Riebeeke's journal in the Cape Archives of 1658 speaks of *pack-oxen*; and also Vasco da Gama, when he came to Mosselbay, saw * women riding on oxen down to the Bay to see the *new comer* (the ship of da Gama).

302 It speaks well for the refined taste of the ancient Khoikhoi, that they were fond of perfumes (sā-b or buχu).

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* "Their brides on slow-paced oxen ride behind."—Camoens, *The Lusiad*, Book V.